

REMARKS

Claims 6, 14-21, 24-55, 57, and 60-63 are pending, with claims 6, 24, 32, 40, and 48 being independent. Claims 6, 14-18, 20, 21, 24-46, 48-54, 57, and 60-63 have been amended; and claims 7-13, 22, 23, 56, 58, and 59 have been canceled. Support for the amendments can be found in the originally-filed specification, at least at page 9, lines 14-26 and Figs. 3A and 3B. No new matter has been introduced.

Claims Objections

Claims 20, 22, 23, 30, 38, 46, 54, and 56 have been objected to as being in improper dependent form. Applicant has amended claims 20, 30, 38, 46, and 54, and has canceled claims 22, 23, and 56. Accordingly, applicant requests withdrawal of this objection.

Claims 7, 10, 21, 31, 39, 40, 48, and 57-63 have been objected to for informalities. Applicant has amended claims 21, 31, 39, 40, 48, 57, and 60-63 to clarify that a "second" electrode is formed over the light emitting layer (claims 40 and 48) and to refer to the "second" electrode (claims 21, 31, 39, 57, and 60-63), and applicant has canceled claims 7, 10, 58, and 59. Accordingly, applicant requests withdrawal of this objection.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 6, 15, 17, 19-21, 24, 26, 28, 30-32, 34, 36, 38-40, 42, 44, 46-48, 50, 52, 54, 55, 57, and 60-63¹ have been rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2001/0004190 (Nishi). Applicant requests withdrawal of this rejection because Nishi does not describe or suggest forming a first insulating film including a first opening and forming at least a transparent protrusion (claim 6), a protrusion having a property of transmitting light (claim 24), a microlens (claim 32), a layer containing a transparent material (claim 40), or a layer having a property of transmitting light (claim 48) to overlap the first opening, as recited in each of the independent claims.

¹ Claims 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 22, 23, 56, 58, and 59 have been canceled and are not listed in the recitation of rejected claims.

Nishi relates to an EL display device having a second interlayer insulating film 42 formed to cover a switching TFT 201 and a current-controlling TFT 202. See Nishi at paragraphs 0071-0074 and Fig. 2. The insulating film 42 includes an opening, and a pixel electrode 43 and an EL layer 45 are formed in the opening. See Nishi at paragraphs 0073-0075 and Fig. 2. However, Nishi never describes or suggests that a transparent protrusion (a protrusion having a light transmitting property, a microlens, a layer having a transparent material, or a layer having a property of transmitting light) is formed to overlap an opening in the insulating film 42.

Accordingly, claims 6, 24, 32, 40, and 48 are allowable over Nishi. Claims 15, 17, 19-21, 26, 28, 30, 31, 34, 36, 38, 39, 42, 44, 46, 47, 50, 52, 54, 55, 57, and 60-63 depend from one of the independent claims, and are allowable for at least the reason that the independent claims are allowable.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 14, 16, 18, 25, 27, 29, 33, 35, 37, 41, 43, 45, 49, 51, and 53² have been rejected as being unpatentable over Nishi in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,834,894 (Shirasaki). These claims depend from one of independent claims 6, 24, 32, 40, and 48, which were rejected as being anticipated by Nishi. As discussed above, Nishi fails to describe or suggest forming a first insulating film including a first opening and forming at least a transparent protrusion (claim 6), a protrusion having a property of transmitting light (claim 24), a microlens (claim 32), a layer containing a transparent material (claim 40), or a layer having a property of transmitting light (claim 48) to overlap the first opening, as recited in each of the independent claims. Moreover, Shirasaki does not remedy the failure of Nishi to describe or suggest this subject matter. In Shirasaki, an organic EL device 11 includes an anode electrode 13, a luminescent layer 14, an electron transport layer 15, and a cathode electrode 16 on a transparent substrate 12. See Shirasaki at col. 3, lines 22-35 and Fig. 1. However, Shirasaki's device 11 does not include an insulating film that has a first opening. Thus, any proper combination of Nishi and Shirasaki would still fail to describe or suggest the subject matter of the independent claims. Accordingly,

² Claims 8 and 11 have been canceled and are not listed in the recitation of rejected claims.

claims 6, 24, 32, 40, and 48 are allowable over Nishi and Shirasaki. Claims 14, 16, 18, 25, 27, 29, 33, 35, 37, 41, 43, 45, 49, 51, and 53 depend from one of the independent claims, and are allowable for at least the reasons that the independent claims are allowable.

Conclusion

In conclusion, applicant submits that all claims are in condition for allowance. The fee in the amount of \$120 in payment of the one-month extension of time is being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System (EFS) by way of Deposit Account authorization.

Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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